

~~NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~

PAGE:0019

SSO KIRTLAND
SSO TAC//INOS
SSO MCCLELAN//USACMLS
SSO SDC
SSO 15 AF//INZEST/GENEVA//START
SSO USAFE//KEEP AND PASS INOA
SSO LNDSEY//DET 3/FTD
SSO USAF
SSO AU
SSO MSD
TAWC CAEWIS
SSO BSD
SSO ESD//INS
CINCLANTFLT VA
SSO NME
CMC//INT
SSO GRNVAL
SSO NESEA//PASS TO NATC

[REDACTED]
N SIR

NST/GENEVA//DEFENSE AND SPACE SIR
NST/GENEVA//SCC SIR
NST/GENEVA//NTT SIR
NST/GENEVA//CD SIR
FICEURLANT//NORFOLK VA/25
SSO NME//NAVAIRSYSCOM
SSO NME//SSPO
CIA//PASS TO CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
ZEM

CONTROLS[REDACTED]
QQQQ

SECTION 1 OF 6

BODY

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND WEAPONS REVIEW CABLE,
SW SWRC [REDACTED] 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

X-----

IRAQ: THE LASER HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE PERSIAN
GULF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RANGEFINDERS ON IRAQI TANKS POSE THE PRIMARY
LASER EYE HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE GULF; AIRBORNE
LASER TARGET DESIGNATORS MAY ALSO BE A THREAT. FROM
EVIDENCE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, WE JUDGE IT UNLIKELY
THAT IRAQ HAS FIELDDED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING
WEAPON. [REDACTED]

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X-----

1. IRAQ: THE LASER HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF [REDACTED]

THE IRAQIS HAVE FIELDED TANKS THAT INCORPORATE LASER RANGEFINDERS (LRFS).

SEVERAL MODELS OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT INCORPORATE LASER TARGET DESIGNATORS (LTDS).

HAVE A GROUND-BASED LTD.

THE IRAQIS ARE NOT KNOWN TO

COMMENT:

WE ASSESS THAT:

X -- THE PRIMARY EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI FORCES EXISTS FROM THEIR TANK LRFS; AIRBORNE LTDS MAY ALSO POSE A THREAT. IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES, US GROUND FORCES WILL BE THE MOST VULNERABLE. AIRCREWS OF HELICOPTERS ALSO MAY BE VULNERABLE IF IRAQI TANK CREWS USE LRFS TO ENGAGE THE HELICOPTERS WITH THEIR MAIN GUN, AS MANY ARMIES TRAIN TO DO. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT US SAILORS OR AIRCREWS OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT WILL BE EXPOSED TO HAZARDOUS LEVELS OF LASER RADIATION FROM IRAQI LRFS OR LTDS.

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SECTION 2 OF 6

BODY

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND WEAPONS REVIEW CABLE,
SW SWRC [REDACTED] 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

X -- IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE ACQUIRED OR
DEVELOPED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING WEAPON.

THE EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI LRFS

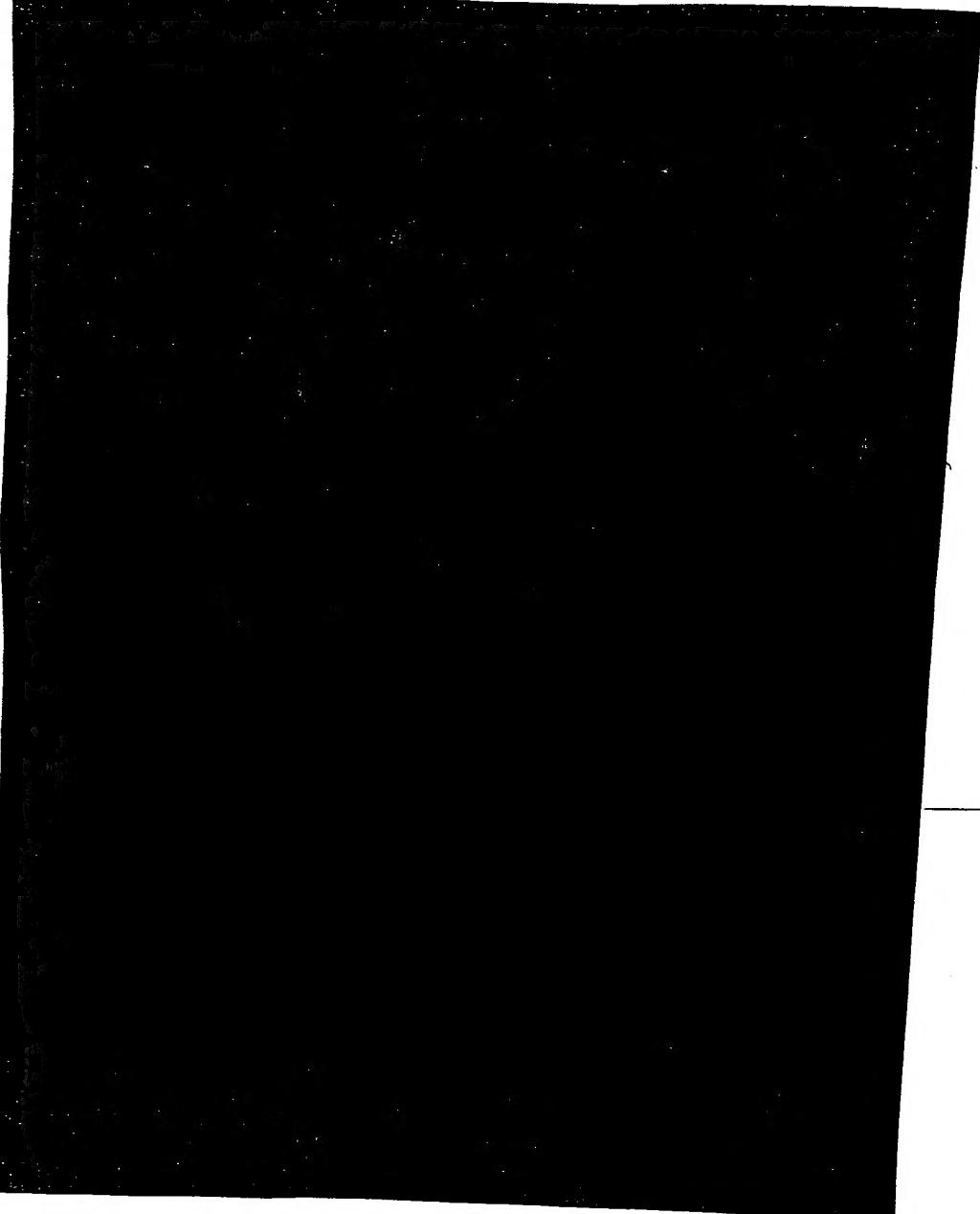
IRAQI TANK LRFS MAY PRESENT AN EYE HAZARD TO UNPROTECTED US

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SOLDIERS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE LOOKING THROUGH A MAGNIFYING OPTIC SUCH AS M-19 7-POWER BINOCULARS. SINCE MOST IRAQI GROUND-BASED LRFS ARE INCORPORATED INTO TANKS, THE MOST LIKELY TARGETS TO BE IRRADIATED IN BATTLE WILL BE US ARMOR AND INFANTRY. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FIXED-WING, HIGH-PERFORMANCE US AIRCRAFT WILL BE IRRADIATED BY THESE TANK LRFS.

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BODY

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND WEAPONS REVIEW CABLE,
SW SWRC ~~TOP SECRET~~ 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

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THE EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI LTDS-1-

[REDACTED]

BECAUSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT DOCTRINE WE WOULD EXPECT FOR
THE LTDS IN THE IRAQI INVENTORY, WE ASSESS THAT THEY PROBABLY
WILL NOT PRESENT A SIGNIFICANT EYE HAZARD TO US FORCES:

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SECTION 4 OF 6

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SW SWRC [REDACTED] 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

X-1- THE EYE HAZARDS DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE BASED ON
EXPOSURE TO A SINGLE LASER PULSE.

X -- MANY OF THE TARGETS FOR IRAQI LASER-GUIDED MUNITIONS
(LGMS) WILL BE OF HIGH VALUE AND LARGE--SUCH AS BRIDGES OR
SURFACE SHIPS--SO THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF IRRADIATING A PERSON
IS LOW.

X -- THE LTDS WILL BE AIMED AT GROUND OR SEA TARGETS ONLY.

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SECTION 5 OF 6

BODY

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SW SWR [REDACTED] 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

[REDACTED] AND WE ARE
SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT A SCIENTIFIC/COMERICAL LASER CAN BE
EASILY WEAPONIZED AND FIELDED AND COULD HAVE CAUSED THE
REPORTED THOUSANDS OF IRANIAN EYE CASUALTIES. [REDACTED]

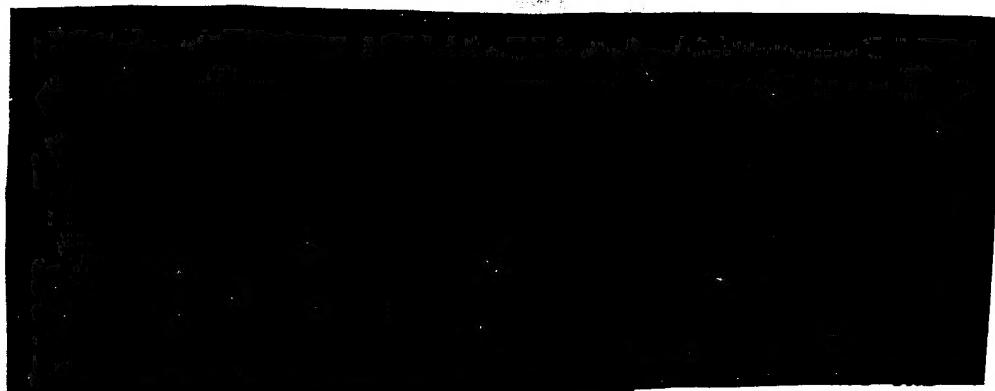
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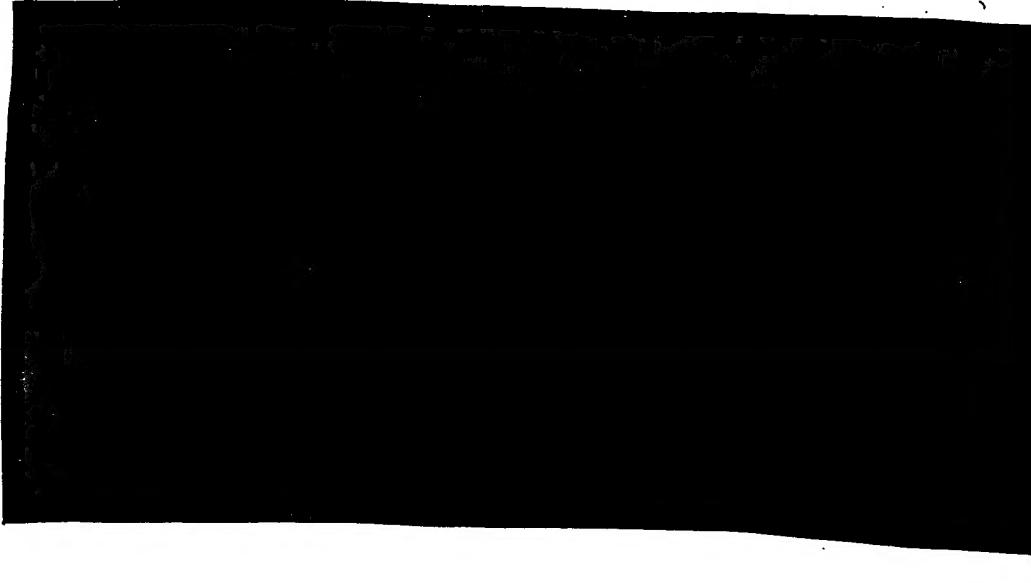
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THUS, THOUGH IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT THE IRAQIS MAY HAVE DEVELOPED OR MODIFIED A
LASER FOR USE AS A BLINDING WEAPON, THE [REDACTED] EVIDENCE
AT THIS TIME PREVENTS US FROM PROJECTING THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE
FIELDED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING WEAPON. [REDACTED]



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